



## BIOGRAPHY

# Margaret Stratton

### BIRTHPLACE

Margaret Stratton was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1953.

### CHILDHOOD

Margaret Stratton grew up in Seattle, Washington. Her first interest in art came from paging through *World Book Encyclopedias* and seeing art reproduced there. She loved the artwork of Marc Chagall, especially the works with figures shown. She loved the magical, fantastic elements. Also, her family received *Life* magazine every week and she pored through them. She loved the work of photographer Margaret Bourke-White and liked that both their names were Margaret.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Stratton graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, in Media Studies and received a Master of Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from the University of Mexico.

### POSITION

Margaret Stratton is photographer and Professor in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Iowa, and lives in Iowa City, Iowa.

### INSPIRATION/INFLUENCE

Ms. Stratton likes the web sites that show hundreds of photographs; contemporary work from fantasy to miniature worlds to travel to portraiture. When asked about how an artist inspires students, she says to be aware of your surroundings. Your take is different from others'. Perceive on your own without others telling you what to believe.

"You never know what you're going to find," she says. She has been asked how she got access to get some places where she has taken rare photos like Ellis Island. She said, "Ask!" She asks to go to places not usually open to the public so she can take pictures. She says her academic credentials have given her access at times.

### ART FORM

Photography

### WEB SITE

[www.margaretstratton.com/](http://www.margaretstratton.com/)

### ARTWORK DISPLAYED

- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Ellis Island Museum, Ellis Island, New York City
- Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois